



REMARKS

Amended independent Claim 23 defines the invention as a holder for supporting an article. The holder includes a housing having a support surface that is adapted to support an article thereon. A plurality of leaf members is supported on the housing for pivoting movement substantially perpendicular relative to a plane defined by the support surface. An actuating mechanism is movable relative to the support surface for causing movement of the plurality of leaf members. Thus, the plurality of leaf members can be moved to engage an article supported on the support surface.

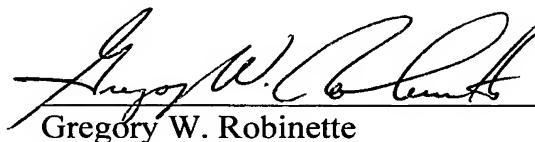
New independent Claim 32 defines the invention as a holder for supporting an article. The holder includes a housing having a support surface that is adapted to support an article thereon. A plurality of leaf members is supported on the housing for movement relative to the support surface. Each of the leaf members includes a screw flight. An actuating mechanism that is movable relative to the support surface and cooperates with each of the screw flights to cause movement of the plurality of leaf members. Thus, the plurality of leaf members can be moved to engage an article supported on said support surface.

The claimed invention is not shown or suggested in any of the art of record. Specifically, the Then et al. reference discloses a device for holding containers. The device includes a motor (13) that drives a wheel (15). The wheel (15) moves, via a spring (16), a segment wheel (17). The wheel (17) is connected to a lever (18) via inter-meshed gear teeth, 17.2 and 18.2, respectively, of the segmented section (17.1) and the toothed segment (18.1). The wheel (17) thereby moves the lever (18), which then moves the retaining arm (5). The arms (5) can only rotate or pivot in a plane parallel to the plane of the support surface or bottom (8).

Significantly, a screw flight (such as clearly shown in Fig. 13 of the pending application) is not shown or suggested by the Then et al. reference. The intra-actuator connection between the wheel (17) and the lever (18) is provided solely by the gear teeth (17.2) to gear teeth (18.2) connection described in detail at column 3, lines 27 through 38. The Then et al. reference further teaches that the retaining arms (5) are attached to the levers (18), but is silent as to how such attachment is achieved.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the cooperating slots highlighted in the Examiner's annotated Fig. 4, do not define functional elements of the device of the Then et al. reference. The highlighted slots are merely spaces or gaps between the arms (5) and bottom (8) and between the bottom (8) and a space or void on the underside of the molded plastic arm (5). The Then et al. reference is silent as to any mechanical purpose for the spaces, gaps, and voids identified and highlighted by the Examiner. Thus, the Then et al. reference does not show or suggest either (1) a plurality of leaf members supported on the housing for pivoting movement substantially perpendicular relative to a plane defined by the support surface, or (2) a plurality of leaf members supported on the housing for movement relative to the support surface, each of the leaf members including a screw flight, and an actuating mechanism that is movable relative to the support surface, the actuating mechanism cooperating with each of the screw flights to cause movement of the plurality of leaf members, as claimed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory W. Robinette", is written over a horizontal line.

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